

To: Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]
Cc: Fagen, Elizabeth[Fagen.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]
From: Schmittiel, Paula
Sent: Fri 5/8/2015 3:37:06 PM
Subject: RE: Inquiry about the Animas River acid mine drainage issues

Steve – Is your calendar for the week of the 18th current – as much as you know? I will be sending out an evite either today or Monday for this meeting with Sovereign engineering. And I agree that we should talk ahead of time.

On another topic – Bill Simon's comments on the R/B from this AM – I think we should try and put some responses in written form – too much stuff gets conveyed verbally and then is left to everyone's memory with their own filters. Can you think about it and we discuss what format is the best way to put our responses out there. We can assist with this as I know you are quite busy (and we're not! ;-)

But one thing that I think Liz, Cynthia and I learning is that we need to get our messaging out there better.

Thanks.

Paula Schmittiel

Remedial Project Manager

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From: Way, Steven
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Schmittdiel, Paula
Cc: Fagen, Elizabeth; Brent Lewis (Brent_Lewis@blm.gov); Hanley, Jim; randy.perlis@state.co.us; Wall, Dan; Wharton, Steve; Peterson, Cynthia
Subject: Re: Inquiry about the Animas River acid mine drainage issues

Paula - I have talked with this group in the past about the Animas. I have worked with Jim, and he was at the ARSG tech exchange gathering last year at the Tech Center.

The May 18th should work for me; suggest we talk before meeting with them.

Steve

Sent from my iPhone

On May 6, 2015, at 11:53 AM, Schmittdiel, Paula <Schmittdiel.Paula@epa.gov> wrote:

This may be a bit pre-mature when we are only beginning a formal RI but I think it might be useful to them give a presentation as we begin to develop our data collection plans for either 2015 or 2016. **Please let me know your thoughts on meeting with them and your availability either next week or the week of May 18th by COB tomorrow (Thursday) so that I can respond back ASAP.**

Also, in the back of my mind is whether or not they are going to show up in Silverton on May 27th for the ARSG meeting – might be good to have a discussion on this ahead of time.

Thanks.

Paula Schmittdiel

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From: Myers, David [<mailto:dmyers@sovcon.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 4:55 PM

To: Schmittdiel, Paula

Cc: Josselyn, Lee; Gusek, James

Subject: Inquiry about the Animas River acid mine drainage issues

Ms. Schmittdiel,

Through talking to some of the Animas River Stakeholder's Group members and reviewing the articles and meeting notes available, I understand that you are listed as EPA's project manager.

We would like to meet with you to discuss the future of the water treatment needs for the American tunnel Gold King, Red and Bonita, and Mogul.

Sovereign is a consulting company that specializes in the passive treatment of AMD. Jim Gusek, our principal scientist, is an internationally known expert in passive treatment of mining contaminated wastewater. We believe that it may be possible to develop a combination of passive treatment unit operations that, while not inexpensive to build, would be much less expensive than a lime HDS system and which would have O&M costs that would be a small fraction of what the existing plants at Summitville and Argo cost yearly.

We talked to Doug Jamison of CDPHE, and learned that CDPHE is strongly in favor of considering passive treatment technologies for the future treatment of AMD, because they

have a heavy load of lime treatment operations and anticipate operation of the new Clear Creek OU4 plant as well.

As a result of the research we have done to-date, we understand that the issues surrounding the eventual treatment of the American Tunnel drainage are complex, both technically and politically. While we understand that the actual treatment may not begin until either Good Samaritan legislation passes congress or the sites become a Superfund site, we believe that the pilot test work for passive treatment should be done as soon as possible so the process treatment train can be identified and the efficacy of the concept is proven, so the selection of a lime HDS can possibly be avoided. The nature of passive treatment processes requires that a thorough bench and pilot testing program be done to identify the substrate in the biological reactors, possible design parameters for iron terrace treatment, sizing and media for manganese removal bed (if needed), etc.

We would like to offer our capability to help the ARSG understand the opportunity to employ a lower cost alternative to the standard treatment technology.

Please let me know when you would be available to meet and talk. I strongly prefer next week (except Wednesday), because I'm going on vacation for 2 ½ weeks after May 16th.

We look forward to hearing from you.

David A. Myers, P.E.

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